Dear Parents/Carers

The last Friday of February!  How did that happen?

Thank you to all who were able to join us at school for our Curriculum Show & Tell event on Wednesday.  We had another fantastic turnout of parents this year and it was super to see our pupils share their learning. We greatly value your support.

**Primary 7 Abernethy Adventure-Medication……A wee reminder……**If you wish school staff to administer medication of any sort including Calpol, pain relief, travel sickness tablets etc, or if you wish your child to carry their own medication, e.g. creams, inhalers, there are forms to be completed.  These can be found on the school website under ‘Information’ àHealth Care & Medicalàscroll down to ‘Administration of Medicines’.   These should be returned by**Monday 26th February.** Pupils should only carry inhalers and creams as all other types of medication must be handed to school staff.  Parents are to supply the medication they wish staff to administer, and this should be handed to a member of staff in the school hall, rather than the school office, when dropping off your child’s luggage on the morning of **Monday 4th March** before departure, for safe keeping. It is essential that the forms are completed and handed in to school the week before departure.

**Dr Bike……**A reminder that as part of the **Access 2 Bikes** project at **Fishermoss School**- a project which aims to empower children, parents and teachers to travel actively, safely and confidently to school, we will be having a **Dr Bike** event at Fishermoss School on **Monday 26th February for Primary 5 to 7 pupils. Dr Bike** is an event where people have the opportunity to get their bicycle checked for mechanical faults, **free**of charge. Simple problems can be fixed and adjustments made there and then, whilst bigger problems will need referring on to local bike servicing workshops. Any minor repairs made are at the discretion of Dr. Bike.P5 to P7 pupils should bring their bike to school at the beginning of the day.  The “Dr” will then safety check the bikes throughout the duration of the school day whilst the pupils are in class. Pupils can then take their bike home when the school day has finished. Pupils are reminded that they should wear a **helmet** if they ride to school, and dress appropriately for the weather.

**Measles and Vaccination**……Measles is on the increase, with a rapid rise in the number of cases seen in parts of England, and a confirmed case in Scotland. It is a serious illness, but the MMR vaccine is proven to safely offer high levels of protection. It is given in two doses; if you are not sure if your child has had both doses, you can contact your GP practice to confirm.  If your child has never had the MMR – or hasn’t had the complete course – you can contact vaccination teams to arrange.

Aberdeen City – email: [**gram.immsservices@nhs.scot**](mailto:gram.immsservices@nhs.scot)

Aberdeenshire & Moray – telephone: 01224 555333

Childhood vaccinations offer protection against many serious illnesses, and you are encouraged to ensure your child is up to date with all of them.

Further information on vaccinations can be found at: [Vaccines - Immunisations in Scotland | NHS inform](https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/)

Further information on measles can be found at: [Measles | NHS inform](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/measles) and [MMR vaccine - Immunisations in Scotland | NHS inform](https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/mmr-vaccine/)

**Free Children's Music Workshop**……In celebration of *‘The Festival of Contemporary Music for All,’* Sound is hosting a day of free music making events including a fun and interactive children’s music-making workshop, suitable for P4-P7s.  In this workshop young people will have the opportunity to explore new music and develop their own musical creativity through playing, improvising, and creating.

This will take place **Sunday 10th March 2024** 11am-12.30pm @ King’s Pavilion, University of Aberdeen.  To register a place, please visit our website <https://sound-scotland.co.uk/event/coma-festival-day-childrens-workshop>

**Parent Sessions to Support our Children and Young People in their Online Lives……**

Growing up online: Come along to an informative session for parents all about supporting children in their online lives.  They will cover tech trends, digital wellbeing and what to do when things go wrong!

* Parents of Secondary age young people: 12th March 6pm – 7pm.
* Parents of Nursery & Primary children: 13th March 4pm – 5pm.

Both sessions are open to any Aberdeenshire parent. To join either session please email [christine.mclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:christine.mclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) to get the relevant meeting link.

**Gaelic in Schools Survey 2024**……As part of the new [Aberdeenshire Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/27719/aberdeenshiregaeliclanguageplan2023-28.pdf) [(Comhairle Siorrachd Obar Dheathain PLANA GÀIDHLIG 2023-2028)](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/27756/gaelic-language-plan-2023-28-in-gaelic.pdf)  Aberdeenshire would like to find out how we can ensure appropriate provision for children and young people in our schools. They have prepared a survey to gather your views. Before you complete the survey, please take some time to consider the information provided below about Gaelic learning and education.  Go to survey [Parent and Carer Gaelic Survey 2024.](https://forms.office.com/e/Nhw9FHdENk) This survey is open until **Friday 15th March 2024.**Children and young people in Primary 6 onwards will also have the opportunity to share their views in school.  [Education (Scotland) Act 2016](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/8/enacted) places a duty on all education authorities to promote and support Gaelic medium education and learning.   

The [Programme for Government](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2023/09/programme-government-2023-24/documents/equality-opportunity-community-programme-government/equality-opportunity-community-programme-government/govscot%3Adocument/equality-opportunity-community-programme-government.pdf) states that the Scottish Languages Bill will be introduced to Parliament providing legal recognition for Gaelic and Scots, strengthening requirements for provision of Gaelic Medium Education, introducing measures to provide further protection for Gaelic within communities and introducing provision to strengthen support for Scots. The [Statutory-Guidance-for-Gaelic-Education](https://www.gaidhlig.scot/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Statutory-Guidance-for-Gaelic-Education.pdf) further underlines our duty to consider how we support Gaelic education in our area.

**Gaelic in schools**……Gaelic Education in Scotland is delivered in two main forms: Gaelic Medium Education and Gaelic Learner Education. Learning about Gaelic language can deepen students' understanding and appreciation of Scotland's heritage and its place in the world.

**Gaelic Medium Education**……Gaelic Medium Education (GME) is for any pupil regardless of the language of the home. In choosing GME parents should recognise that pupils would be taught entirely in Gaelic for the first three years in primary school. From the end of Primary 3 onwards English is gradually introduced through the medium of Gaelic, but Gaelic is still the main language of teaching.

**Gaelic Learner Education** ……Gaelic Learner Education (GLE) sits alongside the teaching of other languages. Gaelic is learned in the same way as French, German and other languages that are taught. As part of Scotland's Languages Policy all schools in Aberdeenshire are encouraged to consider Gaelic Learner Education as an L3 option (beginning at any point between Primary 5 and Primary7).

**Deireadh seachdain math dhut/**Have a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services

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**‘Being the best we can be’**

**Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking**